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TRANSFER FOR DIRECT REPLY - DOE

#109 (M94)

U.S. SPENT FUEL TEAM, MONDAY 2/5/96

CHRON

To: Cherie Fitzgerald, U.S. Department of Energy, NN-42 Fax 202-586-2823

From: Thomas Grim, U.S. Department of Energy Site Monitor Fax 850-2-381-2473

UPON ARRIVAL AT THE SITE I SOUGHT OUT CHIEF ENGINEER LI TO REINTRODUCE MYSELF. HE OF COURSE WAS ANXIOUS FOR NEWS CONCERNING THE BOILER. I TOLD HIM THAT THE BOILER WOULD ARRIVE IN PYONGYANG BY NOON OF 2/6/96. I HAD CONFIRMED THIS WITH D. SANG CHUA (NIKKO) BY PHONE THE PREVIOUS AFTERNOON. AS MUCH AS HE WANTED TO TALK ABOUT THE BOILER WE PRESENTED THE FOLLOWING ITEMS OF WORK: 1) USE OF THE TEMPLATE TO TEST THE SPACING OF THE PROTRUSIONS ON THE BOTTOM OF THE POOL. 2) CONTINUED ASSEMBLY OF THE CANNING STATIONS. AN AIR LEAK IN THE FIRST CANNING STATION HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN IDENTIFIED AND NEEDED TO BE FIXED. 3) MOVEMENT OF PLATFORM COMPONENTS FROM OUTSIDE INTO THE BUILDING. 4) REMOVING INDIVIDUAL RODS FROM POOL #1 FLOOR. ENG. LI HAS INSISTED THAT THESE RODS MUST GO BACK INTO THE BASKETS THEY FELL OUT OF BY MOVING THE BASKETS TO THE RODS. THIS WILL REQUIRE AN EXCESSIVE AMOUNT OF BASKET MOVEMENT AND WATER CLARITY WILL SURELY SUFFER FROM MOVING BASKETS. ALL AGREED THAT IAEA SHOULD BE PRESENT WHEN PICKING UP THESE RODS. 5) VIDEO TAPING OF THE OPERATIONS. 1)

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U.S. SPENT FUEL TEAM, WEDNESDAY

To: Cherie Fitzgerald, U.S. Department of Energy, NN-42 Fax 202-586-2323
From: Thomas Grim, U.S. Department of Energy Site Monitor Fax 850-2-381-2473
THE BOILER DID NOT ARRIVE TODAY. CHIEF ENGINEER LI SAID IT MAY TAKE TWO MORE DAYS.

NEAL BONADIES AND GEORGE JACKSON WORKED ON REMOVING RODS FROM THE POOL FLOOR. NINE WERE DONE BY LUNCH. ALL THAT COULD BE FOUND WERE DONE BY THE END OF THE DAY. THEY ALSO PICKED UP ODD ITEMS (FILTERS AND RAGS) AND PUT THEM IN THE SETTLING TANK. THEY AND THE CRANE OPERATORS WORKED TOGETHER AS A WELL OILED MACHINE, ALL CONSTANTLY LOOKING FOR POTENTIAL HAZARDS. GEORGE PANELL VACUUMED SOME SLUDGE TO ASSIST IN FINDING RODS. THIS ACTIVITY STIRRED UP THE POOL AND WHEN THE WATER CLEARS WE WILL SEE IF THERE ARE ANY MORE RODS OR DEBRIS TO REMOVE.

JOHN NEWAY CONTINUES TO TRACK, SAMPLE, AND MINIMIZE CONTAMINATION AND RADIATION EXPOSURE.

LLOYD HAMILTON AND JEFF POPE WORKED ON MODIFYING THE LOWER FRAME OF THE WORK PLATFORM FOR THE FIRST CANNING STATION. THE PARTS WERE FABRICATED TODAY AND WILL BE WELDED TOMORROW. THIS SHOULD CORRECT OUR DIMENSIONAL PROBLEM.

JIM VIEBROCK AND KEN QUINONES ARRIVED SAFELY AFTER LUNCH. THEY TALKED WITH LI AND TOMORROW THERE WILL BE A TRILATERAL MEETING WITH THE IAEA.

I SPENT MOST OF THE DAY FIXING THE MUD SYSTEM. THE FILTERS WERE CHANGED AND THE CRACKED FINAL FILTER HOUSING WAS REPLACED WITH ONE FROM THE LAB. A SPARE MIXED BED RESIN COLUMN WAS FOUND IN THE STORE ROOM AND I USED THE LAST OF THE RESIN TO REPACK

ANOTHER. WE NOW HAVE DE MINERALIZED WATER AT 5 GPM. THE CHARCOAL COLUMN IS STILL THAWING AND MAY BE ADDED LATER. THERE IS ENOUGH ACTIVATED CHARCOAL TO REFILL IT IF IT DOES NOT THAW PROPERLY. THE COMING SYSTEM WILL BE ADDED TO OUR SPARE PARTS.

AT THE END OF THE DAY THE DPRK WAS ASKED WHY THE EMPTY KEROSENE HEATERS HAD NOT BEEN FILLED. WE NEEDED THIS DONE SO THAT ONE HEATER COULD BE KEPT RUNNING DURING THE NIGHT TO HEAT THE MUD SYSTEM. THE MAIN KEROSENE TANK BY THE GENERATORS WAS EMPTY, BUT THE DPRK SAID THAT A TRUCK TO FILL IT WAS COMING. I SUGGESTED MOVING THE COLUMNS INTO A HEATED AREA OF THE BUILDING OR RUNNING A CONTINUOUS TRICKLE THROUGH THE SYSTEM. I WAS ASSURED THAT ONE WAY OR ANOTHER THE DPRK OPERATORS WOULD KEEP THE SYSTEM FROM FREEZING AGAIN.

THIS FAX IS LATE BECAUSE POWER WAS OFF AT THE GUEST HOUSE. NYONGBYON HAS LOST POWER FOR TWO HOURS EACH DAY OF MY VISIT.

I WILL CALL WINSTON LITTLE AT 2:30 PM PACIFIC TIME ON THURSDAY.

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SUMMARY OF TELCON WITH TOM GRIM - Thursday evening 2/8 @ 8:00 pm

MODIFICATION TO RACKS REQUESTED BY CHIEF ENG LI

- ▶ Eng Li wants a change to the rack system. It is not an easy modification. He announced in meeting between Viebrock, Grim and Engineer Li. IAEA was not present, although Grim/Viebrock requested that they be present. Also Quinones was not present because he was not allowed at the site and was preparing to depart for Pyongyang to meet with MFA.
- ▶ Eng Li wants ease to access canisters from both the bridge and overhead cranes to perform maintenance on cans.
- ▶ Grim has sent a "transcript-like" fax concerning a meeting with Eng Li, Viebrock and Grim. The meeting lasted about one hour. Grim says that meeting was not as confrontational as the transcript sounds.
- ▶ This is the same requirement that Li raised with Libby and Pannell.
- ▶ We (NN-40) need to get a full set of drawings to characterize the modification.
- ▶ Grim is at the point where he is ready to put the first rack into the pool early next week.
- ▶ Grim returned to guest house to discuss with Quinones before he went to Pyongyang. Quinones was unhappy that the meeting lasted so long. Grim says that Li asked a number of leading questions and well into the meeting declared his intention.
- ▶ When Grim left the guest house to return to site, he was detained for 30 minutes while guards "examined his pass". He was finally allowed to return to the site.

QUINONES:

Quinones called at the site on Wednesday. He was not allowed to enter the area "abandoned"

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United States Government

Department of Energy

memorandum

DATE: February 8, 1996

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: Oakland Operations Office (NSPD)

SUBJECT: DPRK Rack Modification Request

TO: Cherie Fitzgerald, NN-42

CHRON

Attached is a transcript (though not verbatim) concerning Chief Engineer Li's request for modification to the canister/rack system that NAC International has designed and delivered to Nyongbyon, DPRK. The dialog was not as confrontational as it may seem in that Mr. Viebrock and Chief Engineer Li have discussed many difficult subjects in the past. However, this is an important issue.

Chief Engineer Li wants flexibility, but flexibility and safeguards are conflicting terms in this case. The changes he requests would require major work and he is restarting the design and verification stages of the project.